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ART. XVII.—*Journal of a Residence in Chili.* BY A YOUNG AMERICAN, detained in that Country, during the Revolutionary Scenes of 1817, 1818, 1819. Boston, 1823.

OF the kingdom of Chili, a country not much less extensive than the Atlantic States of North America, less, we believe, has been written, than on the single subject of the butterflies of Europe. Of few regions of the earth, not directly included in the limits of *terra incognita*, is less known. This has not been for want of good claims upon the attention of men. Its natural qualities of climate and soil, its mineral wealth, its adaptation for a rich commerce, the history of its aboriginal inhabitants and of its colonization by the Spaniards, unite to place it among the countries, which deserve to be known. That, notwithstanding these claims to notice, so little attention has been paid to it, is one among the thousand proofs, that every gift of nature and providence may be overbalanced by vicious political institutions. Not a single printing press could be found in the thirteen hundred miles of the extent of Chili, before the year 1810 ; and nothing is more certain, than that all accurate information of a people must come from out of themselves. A man has but to read the most intelligent and impartial traveller in his own country, to be satisfied that, at least as far as manners, character, and the genius of institutions go, no foreigner can do it justice.

It would be well for the Chilians, however, if this were the great difficulty with respect to them. Countries so little advanced, as not to contain a printing press, can offer but little, morally or politically, which is important to be known. On no part of the earth is there a contrast more glaring, at least, in no part is there one that strikes us more painfully, than that of the natural advantages, and the political and social condition of the Spanish colonies in America. It is not perhaps to be wondered at, that, with a natural unwillingness to have the secrets of their maladministration exposed, the Spanish government should have thrown such obstacles in the way of those, who wished to explore its American possessions,

It is to the Jesuits, that we are indebted for almost all our information with respect to Chili. Bordering on that peculiar theatre of their efforts, the vast vale of Paraguay, Chili early attracted the notice of these indefatigable religious victors, whose spiritual ambition grasped at wider empire than was ever dreamed of, by the Alexanders and Bonapartes. While the greatest secular conqueror has never been able to subdue to his allegiance more than a few adjacent kingdoms, the Jesuits established their missions from the extremity of California eastward to Japan; and at the same moment calculated eclipses for the Chinese emperor, instructed the children of the French monarchs, and presided in the councils of the natives, in the vast *Pampas* of la Plata. The zeal and industry, which they displayed in the description of the countries which they explored, form some compensation for the moral defects of their system. Much of our geographical and historical information, of some of the countries most difficult of access, is derived to us from the writings of these intrepid warriors of the cross.

The first important work on the country we are now considering, is that of Father Ovalle, entitled, *Historia y Relacion del Reyno de Chile, y de las Misiones y Ministerios que en el exercita la Compagnia de Jesus*. Father Ovalle was born in Chili, and there admitted into the society of Jesuits. Having repaired to Rome, on the business of his order, his work was published in that city, both in Italian and Spanish, in the year 1646. Although Father Ovalle is somewhat too liberal in his account of the miracles attending the ministry of his order in Chili, his work is replete with information. It contains an historical account of the wars and settlements of the Spaniards, south of the desert of Atacama, and west of the Andes, from their first entrance into that region down to the year 1643, the period at which he repaired to Europe. He died shortly after his return to America at Lima, in 1651. An English version of his work is contained in the third volume of Churchill's valuable collection.

The voyage of Frezier to the South Sea was made in the years 1712–1714, and some valuable notices of Chili are given in the account of this voyage, which was published at Paris in 1716, under the title *Relation du Voyage à la Mer du Sud et aux Cotes de Chili, du Perou, et du Bresil, fait*

*pendant*, 1712-14. This work is pronounced by Meusel one of the best in its class. Translations were soon made of it into the principal European languages. It was published in English in London, in 1718, with 'a postscript by Edmund Halley, and an account of the settlement, commerce, and riches of the Jesuits in Paraguay.'

The work of Frezier was made the subject of some animadversions by a French ecclesiastic, Father Louis Feuillée, of the Minim friars, whose own appeared a few years after that of Frezier. This work is advantageously known from the testimony of Molina, who bestows upon it the highest praise. 'This most learned Frenchman,' says Molina, in the preface to his *Saggio sulla Storia Naturale del Chili*, 'has described, with extraordinary accuracy, the principal plants, which grow on this coast, and some of the animals which are there found. His descriptions are correct, and entirely conformed to the objects described. I have not been able to discover the slightest error in any part of the work of this able author. But his history, having been published at the royal expense, with great apparatus of most beautiful engravings, has never been reprinted, and has become very rare, and of consequence is known to few.' The strictures of Father Feuillée on the work of Frezier drew forth a reply from the latter, in his second edition, which appeared at Paris in 1732.

In 1776 the Abbé Vidaurre published anonymously at Bologna, his *Compendio della Storia geografica, naturale e civili del Regno del Chile*. When the preface of Molina was written, this work was not printed, as it is spoken of in that preface as still existing in manuscript. Molina speaks in high terms of the accuracy, with which Vidaurre describes the productions of the country, and the manners of its inhabitants. His knowledge of the country was derived from a long residence in it. In fact, we infer from the expressions of Molina in citing his name, that he was a native Chilian. His general plan, in the division and arrangement of his subject, was adopted by Molina. A map of the country, a plan of Santiago the capital, and some other views, all made from accurate observations, add to the value of this work.\*

\* There is some confusion in the account of this work, which we are not able to unravel. Molina, in the preface to his work, published in 1782, speaks

Less known than the foregoing, and in respect to the native language of the Chilians, more valuable, perhaps, than any other, is the work of a German Jesuit, published at Münster, in Westphalia, in three volumes, 8vo. in 1779, with this title; *Bernardi Havestat in Americæ Meridionalis Regno Chilensi e Soc. Jesu Missionarii, Chilidúgú, sive res Chilenses, vel Descriptio Status tum naturalis, tum civilis Regni populique Chilensis*. This learned author passed twenty years as a Jesuit Missionary in the kingdom of Chili. The main object of the work is to promote the knowledge of the Chilian language, which, in his Latin preface and Spanish epilogue, he avers to be as much above all other languages, as the Chilian Andes are above the mountains of the earth. The work is divided into seven parts. The first is a very ample grammar of the Chilian tongue, amounting to near two hundred pages. The second is a translation into the Chilian tongue of Father Pomey's *Indiculus universalis*. The third is a Chilian catechism in verse and prose. The fourth is an ample vocabulary of the Chilian language. The fifth is a Latin vocabulary, corresponding with the preceding. The sixth contains the music for accompanying the organ, in chanting the poetical catechism. The seventh is the author's diary of a missionary excursion in the years 1751 and 1752, illustrated by a map. From this analysis of its contents, it is plain that the Chilidúgú might justly form an addition to the list of grammars and dictionaries of the native languages of Spanish America, which is given by M. de Humboldt in his *Relation Historique* I. 504. We observe, in that list, no Chilian grammar or dictionary, except a French manuscript, in possession of M. W. de Humboldt, *sur la Langue des Araucans de Chili*. Molina observes in the preface to the second part of his history, that there are several printed and

of Vidaurre's work as still unpublished. Living as Molina did at Bologna, and acquainted as he had been with Vidaurre's work in manuscript, it seems hardly possible that, if the latter had been published at Bologna six years before, Molina could have been ignorant of it. And yet Meusel attaches the name of Vidaurre in brackets, to the *Compendio della Storia*, &c. published at Bologna, in 1776. As Molina mentions an *Compendio anonimo che si pubblicò in Lingua Italiana* in 1776, and has in fact constructed his own in some degree upon it, we are strongly inclined to think that to be the work incorrectly ascribed by Meusel to Vidaurre, and that the work of the latter is still in manuscript. This conjecture gains strength from the fact, that Meusel cites no other work by the name of *Compendio*.

manuscript grammars of the Chilian to be met with, but that he has principally made use of that of Febres, printed at Lima in 1765. A Chilian grammar was also composed by Garcilasso de la Vega, though the language is radically different from his native Peruvian.

Superior to all the foregoing works is that of the Abbé Giovanni Ignazio Molina, a Chilian creole, well educated, and possessing all the natural talents requisite for the work which he undertook. He published it in two parts in the Italian language. The first part, under the title *Saggio sulla Storia naturale del Chili*, was published at Bologna in 1782, in octavo. The second appeared five years after, and was called *Saggio sulla Storia civile del Chili*. The materials for both were collected during his long residence in the country, as a member of the company of Jesuits. On the dissolution of that order, he was expelled from the dominions of Spain, and deprived of his manuscripts and collections in natural history. The former he accidentally recovered, after his arrival in Italy, and from them he composed his work on Chili, of which the part relative to the natural history of the country appeared, as we have mentioned, in 1782. The appearance of the second volume was delayed by the Abbé Molina, in the hope of receiving from Peru the second volume of the manuscript history of the Abbé Olivarez, the first of which was already in his possession. Of this manuscript work Molina speaks in his preface in the following terms; the 'History of Olivarez may be called perfect in its kind, for the diligence and judgment with which its author has been able to arrange the most interesting facts of the almost continual war between the Spaniards and the Araucanians.' We cannot enough regret the want of this and another work, which Molina also mentions as existing in manuscript, that of the Chevalier Don Pedro Figueroa, a work composed in the middle of the last century on the civil history of Chili, from the entry of the Spaniards downward. Should our readers be inclined to join us in the opinion intimated in the note on pp. 290-91, that the work of Vidaurre is also still in manuscript, it would follow that three of the most important productions on the subject of Chili are still withheld from the world. The library of the university of Bologna, to which city many Jesuits resorted after the suppression of the Order.

would perhaps be a likely place to find them in, especially as the manuscript of Olivarez was in the hands of the Abbé Molina at that place. We hope some of our countrymen, on their travels in Italy, will make successful search for works so interesting to the study of American history; nor would our minister to Chili perform a service beneath the dignity of his functions, in bringing to light from the libraries of the convents, where they are possibly concealed, in Concepcion or Santiago, these, and other works of interest to the knowledge of the continent on which we live.

A translation of the entire work of the Abbé Molina, by an American gentleman, was published at Middletown, in Connecticut, in 1808. Besides the whole of the original work, some notes are added to this translation from the French and Spanish versions, and supplementary notes of larger compass from the anonymous compendium published at Bologna in 1776, of which we have already spoken. To this translation is appended an analysis of the *Araucana* of Ercilla, and several extracts from that poem in the versions of Hayley and Boyd.

In his preface, Molina says, ‘the histories, or rather the accounts in print, (besides the four poems, which have been published on the Araucanian war,) are those of Ovalle, of Father Gregorio di Leon, of James Texillo, of Don Melchior dell’ Aquila, and an anonymous compendium, published in Italian, in 1776, which, to a certain extent, furnishes a completer notice of Chili, than the other printed works, particularly in reference to geography and natural history.’ As to the printed works here mentioned, that of Ovalle has been already described. Our conjectures with respect to the compendium we have also expressed. The work of Texillo was published in Madrid in 1647, under the title of *Guerra de Chile*, which would lead us to suppose, that it relates chiefly to the history of the Araucanian wars. Of the works of Gregorio di Leon and Melchior dell’ Aquila, we have not learned anything beyond this notice. On the other hand, the section of Meusel on the Chilian writers contains the titles of two works, apparently of a historical character, not mentioned by Molina. These are Mendez *Discursos sobre la Centinela del Reino de Chile*, Lima, 1641; and Rosales (a Jesuit) *Historia General del Reyno de Chile*. Of neither of these

works is anything but the title given by the learned Bibliographer, whom we just have named. Of the 'four poems,' which have been written to commemorate the wars between the Spaniards and the native inhabitants of Chili, 'the Araucana' of Ercilla is the only one, which has obtained celebrity. To this poem, Bouterwek, in his history of Spanish literature, concedes the melancholy praise of 'bearing the palm among the epics of Spain, all of which are failures.'\*

The very circumstances, in which its peculiar recommendation is placed, by Lampillas, Andres, and the mass of readers, its historical fidelity, and the personal agency of the poet in the scenes he describes, are by the unrelenting German pronounced the fatal defects of the plan. Whatever may be the critic's decision on this point, these are doubtless the circumstances, which have contributed to give the Araucana much of its notoriety abroad. The romantic adventures of Ercilla unavoidably inspire the sympathy of the reader. A page of Philip before his accession to the throne, he accompanied him to Italy and the low countries, and afterwards to England; and in the twenty second year of his age, embarked for South America with a new viceroy of Peru. It was at this period, that the war raged between the Spaniards and the Araucanians, the native inhabitants of Chili, who opposed a more valorous resistance to the European invaders, than any other people of either American continent. Ercilla engaged with youthful ardor in the struggle; and soon conceived the plan of recording the events of the hard fought war in a poetical form, but with historical fidelity. This plan was pursued by him amidst all the discouragements and obstacles of a warfare with a barbarous foe. In the wild passes of the Chilian Cordilleras, with no canopy but the heavens, and in the neighborhood of a powerful savage enemy, the heroic bard recorded in verse by night the transactions of the day, and often on fragments of paper, and when that failed him, of leather. In this way he completed the first fifteen cantos of his work. The rest was finished after his return to Spain.

A very honorable testimony to the merit of Ercilla was early pronounced by the most famous writer among his coun-

\* Geschichte der Poesie und Beredsamkeit. III. 408.



trymen. On that memorable occasion, when the library of the Knight of la Mancha was *reviewed*, ‘The Araucana of Don Alonso de Ercilla, the Austriada of John Rufo, and the Monserrato of Christoval de Nirves’ are pronounced by the Curate ‘the best books, that have been written in heroic verse in the Castilian tongue, capable of standing in competition with the most celebrated productions of Italy, and worthy of preservation as the performances, which do the most honor to the Spanish Muse.’ With such a character from the pen of Cervantes, we need not be surprised that some of the countrymen of Ercilla have called him a Homer, and others a Virgil.\* Even Voltaire pronounces the speech of the Cacique, in the second canto, superior to that of Nestor to the Grecian chieftains in the Iliad, adding, however, (a good deal to the annoyance of the Abbé Lampillas,) that it is the only good thing in the poem. The Araucana enjoys certainly the distinction of being the most famous poetical composition, of which America has furnished the subject, and will be prized by the Chilians, no doubt, beyond any other portion of their literary inheritance from Spain.

Such are the chief works, which relate to the ancient kingdom, now the republic of Chili, a country, which bids fair to equal the most favored regions of our continents in commercial and political importance. In latitude, it nearly corresponds with the United States of America on the opposite side of the equator, and accordingly possesses seasons the reverse of ours. It lies between the 25th and 43d degrees of south latitude. Its length is calculated at thirteen hundred miles, and its breadth, between the sea and the Andes, varies from a hundred and twenty to three hundred miles. It is bounded on the north by the desert of Atacama, which divides it from Peru, on the east by the Andes, or the regions of Tucuman, Cujo, and Patagonia, south by the independent Indian nations, which occupy the ‘Magellanic regions’ of the ancient geographers, and west by the ocean. Its superficies is computed to contain 378,000 square miles, being about twice the extent of France. The present population of Chili, exclusive of the independent tribes of Indians, is estimated at 1,200,000.

\* See the Authors cited in the prologo to the Araucana, p. 17. Ed. of 1776

The natural limits of Chili are strongly marked. The almost impassable desert of Atacama has formed a political barrier between Chili and Peru, from the earliest periods to which our traditions of these two countries go back. The native Chilians were an entirely distinct race from the Peruvians; and the conquests of the Incas, like those of the Spaniards after them, found a limit in the domains of the Araucanians. This same desert will doubtless form a permanent barrier between the free republics of Chili and Peru. To the eastward the ridge of the Andes forms a still more complete boundary. According to Molina, there are eight or nine roads across the mountains, but in a condition at present to be travelled only by mules, and wholly obstructed in the winter season. The distance of Santiago, the capital of Chili, from Buenos Ayres, by the most direct road across the Cordilleras, is 1200 miles.

No strongly marked frontier divides Chili on the south from the independent Indian nations. The Spanish conquests were never permanently extended beyond the river Biobio, and the history of their wars with the Araucanians, from the time of Almagro to the year 1771, has sufficiently shown that a political necessity exists for the extension of a civilized state down to the straits of Magellan. The strange caprice of the present revolution, which has placed the Indians on the royal side, and thereby given the Patriots good reason to regard them and treat them as enemies, will no doubt hasten their subjugation and final extinction. On the west, Chili is open to the sea, and possesses some of the finest harbors on the western coast of South America. A few islands, most of them of no great note, lie along its coast; that of Juan Fernandez must contribute to give Robinson Crusoe a peculiar interest in the Chilian nursery.

The Spanish possessions under the old *regime* were divided into nine governments, under the name of viceroyalties and captain generalships. Chili was one of the five *capitanias*. The captain general had his residence at Santiago, the metropolis of the province, which at various periods was divided into districts, from fourteen to twenty in number. South of the Biobio the Spanish possessions at present do not extend, with the exception of the town and district of Valdivia, which the Spaniards were able to retain when expelled

from the rest of the territory of the Araucanians. This valiant people, with their allies the Puelches, occupy a very fertile region, abounding not only in the productions of the soil, but in mineral riches, and extending for about two hundred miles on the coast, and more than four hundred in depth towards the mountains. This remarkable race has a political organization, as regular as that of their civilized neighbors; and since the peace between them and the Spaniards in 1771, it has been recognized in a sort of independence, and was permitted by that treaty to have a resident minister in the city of Santiago.

For a general idea of Chili, the splendid encomium of Robertson will suffice.

‘The climate of Chili,’ says he, ‘is the most delicious of the new world, and is hardly equalled by that of any other region, on the face of the earth. Though bordering on the torrid zone, it never feels the extremity of heat, being screened on the east by the Andes, and refreshed from the west by cooling sea breezes. The temperature of the air is so mild and equable, that the Spaniards give it the preference to that of the southern provinces in their native country. The fertility of the soil corresponds with the benignity of the climate, and is wonderfully accommodated to European productions. The most valuable of these, corn, wine, and oil, abound in Chili, as if they had been native to the country. All the fruits imported from Europe attain to full maturity there. The animals of our hemisphere not only multiply, but improve in this delightful region. The horned cattle are of larger size than those of Spain. Its breed of horses surpasses, both in beauty and in spirit, the famous Andalusian race, from which they sprang. Nor has nature exhausted her bounty on the surface of the earth; she has stored its bowels with riches. Valuable mines of gold, of silver, of copper, and of lead, have been discovered in various parts of it.’

Not less emphatic is the summary account, which the Abbé Raynal has given of this region.

Numerous volcanic mountains exist within the limits of Chili, of which twelve or fourteen are said to be constantly in a state of eruption. Earthquakes are said to happen three or four times every year, but five only are recorded, since the conquest by the Spaniards, of alarming violence. In 1751, the city of Concepcion was wholly destroyed by an inundation, incident to an earthquake, and all the fortresses and

villages, between the 34th and 40th degrees of latitude, levelled with the ground. The climate of Chili is remarkably healthy, fevers and other disorders are nearly unknown; no instance of hydrophobia, according to the testimony of M. de la Condamine, had ever occurred in it, and but one small species of venomous serpents exists in it.

In mineral wealth, Chili is surpassed, if at all, by Mexico alone. Besides several of the precious stones, which are found in abundance, as amethysts and turquoises, the mines of copper, silver, and gold, are very rich. When Molina wrote, a half a century ago, there were computed to be one thousand copper mines, between the cities of Coquimbo and Copiapo, which were a part only of those in the kingdom of Chili. Frezier, the traveller mentioned above, avers that he saw at Concepcion a mass of copper ore, which weighed forty quintals, from which six field pieces of six pound calibre were cast; a mass with which that so well known near lake Superior cannot enter into competition. We know not whether the mineralogical authority of Molina be good enough to secure belief to the following account of a mine of *native brass*.

‘In the hills of the province of Huilquilemu, is found a copper combined with zinc, or a *native brass*. It occurs in masses of various sizes, adhering to an earthy stone, easily broken, and of a color sometimes yellowish, and sometimes of a greenish brown. This production is to be attributed to the subterraneous fires, which meeting the pure copper and the *lapis calaminaris*, sublime the latter, and fix it by a natural combination with the copper, and thus produce this singular compound. It is of a fine yellow, and not less malleable than the best artificial brass. The river Laxa, which washes the hills where it is found, gives it the name of *Laxa Copper*.’

The silver and gold mines in Chili are very abundant, and those of quicksilver will furnish the means of working them to advantage. The *Essay* of the Abbé Molina contains interesting accounts relative to both these metals, but we have no space to repeat them. The annual registered produce of the mines of gold and silver of Chili, according to the statement of M. de Humboldt,\* is one million seven hundred thousand

\* *Essai sur la Nouvelle Espagne*. IV. 170.

dollars. As a great deal of gold dust is gathered and washed throughout the country, there is no doubt that the whole amount of the precious metals collected in it considerably exceeds the sum officially reported. M. de Humboldt is inclined to carry the whole amount of gold and silver, annually produced by the mines of Chili, making allowance for that which is surreptitiously obtained, to two million sixty thousand dollars. It is gratifying to learn, that even in the Spanish colonies, the relative value of the sources of wealth is so well understood, that it is regarded as a misfortune to the proprietors of fertile land to have a vein of ore discovered in their precincts.

‘Those,’ says Molina, ‘who wish to undertake the working of a vein, demand permission for this purpose of the government, which is never withheld. A deputy is immediately sent to the spot, under whose direction and authority the mine is divided into three portions, called *stache*, each of which is two hundred and forty six feet in length, and one hundred and twenty three feet in breadth. The first is the portion of the king, in whose name it is sold; the second belongs to the proprietor of the soil, the third to the discoverer of the mine. Landholders are in the habit of concealing, with the greatest care, the mines discovered in their possession, in consideration of the damage done to their farms, by the crowds which resort to a mine. As soon as the discovery of a rich vein in any spot is known, the peasants flock thither from every quarter, partly to engage in the excavation, and partly with provisions and supplies of every description, for which they are sure to find a good market. Hence a perpetual fair is gradually constituted, houses are built, and a permanent city is formed.’\*

The vexation and the loss of property, hence resulting to the proprietor of a fertile farm or an abundant vineyard, can easily be imagined. He is obliged to give up the certain produce of his harvest, for the precarious gains of a third part of a mine, to be worked at great risk and cost. Even the sight of a beautiful farm, in the romantic vallies of the Andes, converted into a black and smoking desert, loaded with heaps of scorixæ, and swarming with the thriftless and vicious population collected about a mine, must of itself be painful. Less so, indeed, but of the same kind, is that which may be seen

\* Molina Saggio sulla Storia Naturale, &c. 117.

nearer home than Chili. A man retires, when life begins to wane, to some secluded spot, near enough to the city for convenient access on 'melting days,' but beyond the reach of its din. Here he rebuilds perhaps the decaying walls of the habitation, where his fathers had dwelled, and thinks to descend, into the vale of years, aloof from the bustle of the world. An earthly paradise begins to form itself around him. A liberal cultivation clothes with new beauties the fields and the woods. Nature aided, not constrained, discloses all the soul soothing charms of grove, and gentle lawn, and shady walk, and stealing brook, and ever varying landscape; and the happy man fancies himself forever restored to that pious sympathy with the inanimate world, for which he was created. Vain dream! The ruthless speculator has found him out. The merciless surveyor has measured the approaches to this elysium. It is quite clear that a turnpike road through his lawn will lessen the distance to the next town a half a score of yards. All the *travel* of the neighboring village clamors for a short cut through his front entry; the public good requires it; the town, the county is up in arms; the court of sessions is convened; the 'viewers,' a name of terror, make their appearance in the devoted precinct; and by the next June, the axe is laid at the root of the elms which his father planted, and a 'store,' is built in sight of his windows, to accommodate the 'passing' with West India Goods and Groceries.

But to return to Chili. It would exceed our limits to attempt to enumerate the vegetable and the animal productions of this region, and the circulation, in English, of so complete a view of them as that, which is contained in the Abbé Molina's work, abundantly supersedes the necessity of any such imperfect essay as we could make to abridge it. It ought not, however, to be omitted, that Chili is probably the native region of the potato, 'that vegetable which,' says Humboldt, 'among the great number of useful productions made known to us by the distant migrations and voyages of man, since the discovery of the cereal grains, has had the greatest influence on human happiness.\*' The potato, according to the same author, which is found wild in no part

\* Essai sur la Nouvelle Espagne. III. 124.

of the tropical Cordilleras, abounds in all the districts of Chili. In making this assertion, M. de Humboldt follows the authority of the Abbé Molina, who says, that two species and more than thirty varieties of it are known to the inhabitants of Chili. It is justly mentioned by Humboldt, as a singular fact, hard to be explained, that while the potato was known in the temperate region, both of South and North America, before the arrival of the Spaniards, the Mexicans were wholly unacquainted with it, and subsequently indebted to the Spaniards for its introduction.

The waters of the Chilian coast abound in fish. The Abbé Molina states, that the cod is as abundant upon the coasts of Juan Fernandez, as upon the banks of Newfoundland.

After making an apology for calling the whale a fish, the same respectable author asserts the well known fact of the abundance of this animal in the waters of Chili, and justly expresses his admiration at the strange ignorance of Buffon, in asserting, that no whales were found in the South Sea. What would that eloquent naturalist have said, could he have read the journal of one of our Nantucket spermaceti whalers?

The direction and developement, which the Chilian commerce will assume, should free institutions meet with full success in the country, and its population increase in proportion to their natural effect, can be but in a slight degree estimated from its condition under the Spanish government. By a refinement on the villanous policy of their colonial system, all direct communication between Chili and the mother country itself was prohibited, till the year 1778. The viceroyalty of Peru was made an intermediate mother country between the Chilians and the Spaniards; and nothing could be imported or exported between them, but by the way of Callao. It will hardly be believed, even of Spanish navigators, that the voyage from Callao to Concepcion, was for a century considered as a year's work; till a pilot, who had observed the succession of the winds, performed it in a month. The Inquisition, that venerable institution of the Spanish monarchy, as the official Russian gazette pronounced it last summer, caused this bold wight to be arrested, and it was only by exhibiting his log book, that he could convince them he had made the voyage by no worse art than that of naviga-

tion.\* In 1778, all the ports of Spain were opened to a direct trade with Chili, and an activity before unknown, was introduced into commerce. At the period of this improvement, the Chilians exported to Peru, hides, dried fruit, copper, salt meat, horses, hemp, and wheat; and received in exchange, tobacco, sugar, cocoa, earthen ware, some manufactures of Quito, and articles of European luxury. To Paraguay and Buenos Ayres, Chili exported landwise, wines, (a very valuable article of Chilian produce,) brandy, oil, and gold; and received in return, mules, wax, cotton, the herb of Paraguay, (matte,) and negroes, of whom a few only are held in slavery in Chili. A considerable part of the European trade with Chili also came overland from the River la Plata, till the merchants of Lima bribed the Spanish government, and procured an order that it should take the route of the Isthmus of Darien and Peru.† The Abbé Molina thus sums up the account of the Chilian commerce.

‘The external commerce of Chili is carried on with Peru and Spain. In the first, twenty three or twenty four ships, of five or six hundred tons each, are employed, which are partly Chilian, partly Peruvian. These usually make three voyages in a year. They carry from Chili, wheat, wine, pulse, almonds, nuts, cocoa-nuts, conserves, dried meat, tallow, lard, cheese, sole-leather, timber for building, copper, and sundry other articles; and bring back in return, silver, sugar, rice, and cotton. The Spanish ships receive in exchange for European merchandise, gold, silver, copper, vicuna wool, and hides.’‡

It would really be doing the greatest injustice to the subject, to appeal to the reports of the present state of the trade to this, or the other regions of South America, as affording any indication of what that trade might become, under a new order of things. How great injustice would thus be committed may be partly seen, by looking into lord Sheffield’s work on the commerce of the United States of North America; and beholding the stupendous errors of calculation, which were founded even on a diligent comparison of the best documents then in existence. It does not sufficiently fix the attention of those, who discourse on countries, in the condition

\* Raynal’s History, &c. IV. 211.

† Ibid.

‡ Molina, Vol. II. of the American translation, p. 282.



in which North America was, when lord Sheffield wrote, and South America, and, we will add Greece, are now, that the ante-revolutionary situation of such countries coincides with their post-revolutionary situation, in scarce anything but in geographical features. All that makes the nation,—population, laws, habits, spirit, are in a state of change, of which the extent can only be learned from experience.

Very few means, we presume, exist for ascertaining the actual amount of the *Chilian* trade. We have copied the following sums from a *British* newspaper, but we do not know on what authority they rest.

British exports to the port of Valparaíso in *Chili*.

1818, . . . . .	£32,797
1819, . . . . .	16,819
1820, . . . . .	17,702
1821, . . . . .	144,414
1822, . . . . .	377,909
1823, . . . . .	462,848

As some trade takes the route from the *River Plate* across the *Andes*, westward, the imports into *Valparaíso*, of course, give but a partial view of that branch of *Chilian* commerce. So much has the revolution disordered the trade of this country, that though *Chili* produces wheat for exportation, both to *Peru* and the region east of the *Andes*, flour has been sent from the *United States* to *Chili* itself. The principal amount of our exports thither, in addition to this article, which is of course only occasionally in demand, are tobacco, fish, furniture, cotton manufactures, and ship chandlery. In return, we receive copper, silver, a few *chinchilla* skins, and scarce anything else. The numerous and rapid changes of government, which have taken place, and the disastrous vicissitudes of the war, by which the seaports have so often changed masters, having exposed our vessels to constant capture and made it impossible to form any rational calculations as to the position in which the market would be found, have almost caused the destruction of our trade to this country. Several vessels engaged in freighting business, between the *Chilian* ports and others of the *South Sea*, have been vexatiously detained, and still more vexatiously captured, and our merchants will be obliged to wait for settled times.

When those times come, we have no doubt the South American market will restore to our merchants those golden days of prosperity, of which the present generation knows only the tradition.

But it is more than time to turn our attention to the interesting volume, which we have named at the head of the article. It is the journal of an American gentleman, written and sent home for the amusement of his friends, and with no view to publication. Of literary criticism, therefore, it is not fairly the subject. This remark we make, not as if it were open to any exceptions in this connexion; on the contrary, it is evidently the production of an accomplished mind, and as well prepared for the public eye, as any work not written for the press can be ordinarily expected to be. We waive all other remarks, merely that we may have room to give a better account of the substantial contents of the volume, and to lay before our readers ampler specimens from it.

The journal of our author commences with the departure of the ship *Canton*, bound to the North West Coast, in which he sailed from *Staten Land*, east of Terra del Fuego, on the 1st of August, 1817. Fourteen days were passed near Cape Horn, and in the attempt to double it. This they at last effected in latitude 56 degrees south, and made the Highland near Concepcion, on the 22d of August, and two days after came to anchor on the eastern side of Queriquina, the island which lies in the entrance of Concepcion bay. Here, by an artifice on the part of the Royalists, they were betrayed into their power, and carried to the bay of Talcahuano, the only place at that time in Chili, which was not in the hands of the Patriots. With scarcely the forms of law, the vessel and cargo were searched and plundered. Another American ship, the *Beaver* of New York, shortly after arrived, and was treated in the same manner.

‘The supplies brought by our two vessels,’ says the author, ‘have proved a most seasonable relief to the garrison here. The troops were miserably armed, and badly supplied in every respect. Our muskets were recognized upon their shoulders, the very day after they were taken from on board. A great part of the cargo also, which they have taken on appraisal, after their own manner, had already been converted into clothes for the soldiers, who were paid too with our money.’

Such vexations, to which the lawful commerce of our citizens was exposed, are truly revolting. At this time, the headquarters of the Patriots were at Concepcion, distant only nine miles from Talcahuano, and separated from it only by a broad *pampas*. The gentlemen of the Canton passed their time in constant expectation of an attack upon the king's troops. This actually took place on the 6th of December. The Patriots had at one moment forced the lines of Talcahuano, and our author and the other persons attached to the Canton, moored in the harbor of that city, witnessed the advance and the retreat of the assailing force. News having shortly afterwards been received of an intended expedition of the Royalists from Lima, directed against Concepcion, it was judged prudent by the Patriots to desert that city, and to retreat to Santiago. Scarcely had they taken up their march to the interior, when the Royal squadron, consisting of one frigate, nine transports, and about four thousand men, under Osorio, arrived from Lima; and after a short stay at Concepcion, followed the retreating army of the Patriots towards Santiago. While our author was delayed in the port of Talcahuano, he had full opportunity of informing himself of the materials of which the contending armies were composed. Among the troops, which made up the force of the Royalists, were a large number of the natives.

‘ Since we have been in Talcahuano, there have arrived several deputations from the Indians; and it is one of the most singular circumstances attending the present warfare, that these old and inveterate enemies of the king, whom he has spent so much blood and treasure in endeavoring to subdue, are now his firm allies, and universally\* opposed to the Patriots. \*\*\*. It is said, that they have greatly degenerated from the old Araucanian character, and that the intercourse of the Spaniards has been greatly deleterious to them. That they still possess their territories, which are known to be richer in mines, and more fruitful than any other parts of Chili, is owing probably rather to the weakness of the Spaniards, than any strength of their own. I have seen several bodies of them from twenty to sixty in number. Their general appearance is not very different from that of the tribes of Indians, upon the frontiers of the United States.’

\* The term, *universally*, applies, we presume, to the war in Chili

The retreat of the Patriots took place in the month of December, or midsummer, for the seasons are here inverted from the order in which we experience them on this side of the equator. The ensuing months of January, February, and March, were passed by our author at Talcahuano, and diversified with excursions to Concepcion, which he found bearing evident marks of its military occupation, by the Patriots, for the preceding eight months. In April, 1818, after momentary successes on the part of the Royalists, they were defeated in a decisive battle at Maypu, near Santiago; the army of 5000, which they had lately marched against that city, was annihilated; and the commander, Osorio, escaped as a fugitive to Talcahuano. The Beaver and Canton were immediately prepared to take the unsuccessful commander and his suite back to Lima. The gentlemen attached to these vessels were of course obliged to leave them. Under these circumstances, our author accepted the invitation of a friend in Talcahuano, to retire with him to his country seat, or *estancia*, at Gualqui, on the right bank of the Biobio, at a distance of about forty miles from the coast. The descriptions of the appearance of the country, the productions of the soil, and the manners of the inhabitants, which are given by occasion of the winter passed by our author in this romantic retirement, are highly curious. We regret that we have room only for the following extracts.

‘ This (June) and the following two or three months, are likewise the season of diversion. The farmers, planters, and country gentlemen are everywhere exchanging visits, not of an hour or a day, but of weeks; and it makes no difference in what numbers they arrive at a friend’s *estancia*. Thirty can be as conveniently accommodated as three. There is never a lack of provisions, and their beds, both rich and poor, they always take with them. These consist of some eight or ten rugs, and pillions of skins, sometimes beautifully colored, which form the furniture of their horses. Their saddles are of different construction from ours; or are rather only the frames of ours, but rendered easy for the horse, by the great number of these rugs and pillions placed under and upon them. The *havia*, as this furniture is called, is almost as heavy as the man who mounts it; and a Chileno, unsaddling his horse, will bring to your mind the grave digger in Hamlet, preparing for his work. After supper, each one spreads his bed, with the saddle

for a pillow, and ten or fifteen, and often more, are thus handsomely accommodated in the *Sala*.'

The following passages may serve to complete the picture of the establishments of the Chilean gentry.

'The *estancia*, in which I am, may be taken as a pretty fair sample of the better order of country houses, in this part of the country. The house is about eighty feet in length, by twenty five in breadth, with a broad corridor, and three *quartos*, as they are called,—little apartments attached to the house which serve for sleeping rooms. The walls are of sunburnt brick, three feet in thickness, plastered within and without; two large doors opposite each other, and one small window; the roof thatched with reeds, and covered with *takas*, made of clay burned, in form semi-cylindrical, and fixed upon the roof with mortar, lapping over each other in rows, alternately concave and convex, and thus forming spouts for the water to descend. The floor is the earth, and this rough and uneven. There are few houses that are waterproof, and in winter they are extremely damp and uncomfortable. They are generally about *twelve feet* in height, and with no other ceiling than the roof. Near the window is a raised platform, about twenty feet long and six broad, covered with a Turkey carpet, or rugs that resemble one; and on this the women, when not actively engaged, always sit, in the manner of tailors with us. Almost every house is furnished with a few chairs, but I do not remember to have seen a woman seated in one, either in the city or the country.'

The fashion of their entertainments may be seen in the following account.

'I was last week at one of the regular entertainments called *rifas*, given in all directions at this season. They are thus conducted. The major-domo, or owner of an *estancia*, gives a week's notice to the neighborhood, that on such a day he shall *kill a hog*, and keep open doors. On the evening of the day, men and women, old and young, flock to the house from all quarters. The entertainment commences with music of the guitar, and singing. Then follows the fandango in one part of the house, while three or four circles of men in another are engaged in a game of cards, somewhat resembling loo. About midnight, supper is served up of various and savory dishes, pork being the most conspicuous. Wine, punch, and other liquors are kept in readiness, and of these each one pays for what he calls for. This is often kept up for two or three days and nights, with no more sleep than is requisite to refresh them and begin again. This sort of festival is, I believe, peculiar to the *country* and small villages.'

The following extract will serve to show that the dread of earthquakes, notwithstanding the frequency of their occurrence in Chili, makes but little encroachment on the happiness of its inhabitants, beyond obliging them to live in one story houses.

‘To balance all this fertility and beauty of soil and climate, say our geographers, they are subject to the most dreadful of all natural phenomena, *earthquakes*. It is no doubt true, that the shocks are more frequent here than in most parts of Europe or North America, and it is true, that the inhabitants live in constant and superstitious dread of them. Yet, after inquiring of the oldest individuals I have met, I cannot find one who can recollect a *death* caused by an earthquake. This general dread of them, probably proceeds from the removal of the capital of the province to its present site, in consequence of the inundation and destruction of many of the houses of the old city, in the great earthquake, some eighty or ninety years ago. For the year past there has been but one very perceptible shock in the province of Concepcion. This was a few evenings since. Some eight or ten were at supper in the *estancia*, when suddenly they all started up, and rushed out of doors, overturning everything in their way, and shrieking “*miseri-cordia, misericordia.*” The shock continued but for an instant, and was lighter than one, which was felt in Massachusetts a few days before we sailed, and was the talk of a moment. I am told, however, that I can form no idea of the effect of an earthquake in Chili, as the year past has been remarkably and providentially exempt from this calamity.’

The close of a year from the period at which he arrived at Talcahuano, found our author in the position in which we have seen him with his friends at Gualqui. At this time, the Patriot arms were successful throughout the provinces of Santiago and Concepcion; Talcahuano was abandoned by the royal troops, and all who were devoted to the Royal cause were ordered by the king’s commander, general Sanchez, to repair to *los Angeles*, a city about one hundred and fifty miles in the interior, east of Concepcion, near the Biobio, a depôt of the trade between Chili and the independent tribes. It was proposed by the Royalists here to make a stand against the Patriots, and if driven from this post, to retreat across one of the ridges that descend to the Pacific, at right angles to the main chain of the Cordilleras, and thus traverse the country of the friendly Araucanians to Valdivia. In the

lawless state, in which the country was left by the retreat of all the remaining royal forces to the extreme frontier, the family in which our author had resided, thought themselves no longer secure in their *estancia*, near Gualqui; and in the month of October, 1818, removed to another at Penco, situated in the mountains near the coast.

The following description of the situation of the *estancia*, near Gualqui, which is given by our author, in taking leave of it for Penco, will suggest to our readers some ideas of Chilian scenery.

‘Under other circumstances, and in better times, our residence near Gualqui might have been made a delightful one. The scenery in the neighborhood is grand and picturesque, and the site of our *estancia* sometimes brought to my mind the Valley of Rasselas. It is situated on the declivity of a mountain; before it is a rich valley of narrow circuit; and through the centre of the valley runs a pleasant and perennial stream, thickly set with fruit trees; figs, olives, lemons, peaches, quinces, pears, and apples in abundance. It is completely and closely encircled by lofty mountains, covered by evergreen trees and shrubbery. On the side of one of these mountains is the vineyard, and over others are footpaths, leading to the different *estancias* in the neighborhood. From their summits the view of the surrounding country is magnificent, ending with the Cordilleras, at the distance of forty leagues, perpetually covered with snow, and assuming the appearance of dense white clouds, rising from the horizon in a thousand fantastical shapes. Over them lies the road from Chili to Buenos Ayres.’

Our author and his friends reached their new retreat at Penco in safety. Some very interesting accounts are here given of the ancient city of Concepcion or Penco, destroyed by earthquakes and inundation, but our limits oblige us to pass them over. A few days after their arrival here, some transport ships from Spain, with troops for the royal armies, appeared in port. They had sailed from Cadiz in May, and arrived, much weatherbeaten, at Concepcion, in October. The troops consisted of veterans from the armies, which had served against France. Shortly after the transport ships, arrived the Maria Isabella, a frigate of the first class, attached to the same expedition, and bound to Lima, with several high officers of the royal government, a son of the viceroy, and very valuable effects. She was one of the vessels sold

by Russia to Spain, of which several proved, we believe, unseaworthy. The *Maria Isabella*, according to our author, was built of the best materials, and finished in a superb style.

We have more particularly mentioned the case of this vessel, because it leads to some reflections on the momentous character of the South American policy, which our government, supported, as we think, at the present time, by a very general popular assent, has announced itself as ready to pursue. That policy is, that while the United States will adhere to their neutrality between Spain and her colonies, they will resist any attempts of the great powers of Europe to assist Spain in subduing them. To what extent such attempts must go, to call out our interference, will of course be a question for the discretion of our government to solve. If a great power may sell to Spain ships of war, on terms of long credit and easy payment, we see not but that the same power may loan her or give her money, and furnish her with troops. If, however, the general report is true of the quality of the ships sold by Russia to Spain, the friends of South American liberty need be at no great pains to prevent the repetition of such succors. An idea of their unseaworthiness prevailing among the troops to be embarked in them, was among the causes of the revolution in 1820.

The fate of the *Maria Isabella* was as disastrous for the Royalists, as that of her companions left rotting at the quays of Cadiz. Just as she was about to sail for Lima, two Patriot ships of war entered the harbor, and after one broadside, the *Maria Isabella* was compelled to strike—a rich and acceptable prize to the victors. Her officers made their escape in the boats to Talcahuano.

After the Patriot vessels and their prizes had sailed from the bay, the Royal general Sanchez, with most of the inhabitants attached to the king's cause, and the officers of the unfortunate frigate, marched into the interior for *los Angeles*. Thus the country was again exposed to lawless *guerilla* bands. The family, in which our author lived, suspected already of patriotism, and doubly suspicious for not having accompanied the Royal army, felt themselves no longer safe in their *estancia* at Penco, and determined to conceal themselves in the mountains. The mildness of the season favored this measure; and the greater part of November was passed



by them in the mountains. Having been led by false information of the approach of the Patriots to return to their dwelling, they were immediately surprised there, by a Royal *guerilla* party. All but our author escaped again to the mountains. The house was immediately plundered of all its moveables, and our author taken into custody as a suspicious person. In this character, robbed of his effects and in peril of his life, he was obliged to attend the party who had made him prisoner, in an anxious march to *los Angeles*. On his arrival at this place, he had the good fortune to be recognised by the commander in chief, who treated him with kindness. The descriptions given in this part of the work of our author's adventures at *los Angeles*, one of the frontier towns of Chili, at a distance from the coast beyond the reach of most travellers, and to which he was himself so unexpectedly conveyed, form the most interesting portion of the book. The following is the account of this city.

‘The city of *los Angeles* is situated nearly in the centre of an immense plain, extending to the river Biobio, about three leagues distant on one side, and to ranges of hills of moderate height on others. The plain affords excellent pasture for innumerable flocks and herds, and in the neighborhood of the hills are many first rate *estancias*, belonging to citizens of *los Angeles*, and to rich country gentlemen. A number of these last had already resorted to the city with their families; and among them, many were easily distinguished as Europeans. The city is built upon the same plan as Concepcion; the streets wide and at right angles, and the same style of architecture; but the private houses not so well built, nor of so good materials, and the public buildings vastly inferior.

‘On one side of the square is a large castle or fort, with a deep fosse and thick walls, in which a thousand troops might be quartered. It seems well calculated for defence against the Indians. Opposite to this is the only church and convent in the city. It is neither large, nor sightly, nor richly ornamented within. I know not how to account for the fact, that the ecclesiastical establishment here should be upon so small a scale; since in many other towns in the country, of less magnitude, you meet with a church and convent at every corner. The manners and customs of the inhabitants, seem to me to differ but little from those of Concepcion. The complexion, especially of the lower classes, is of a darker hue, which is easily accounted for by their proximity to the Indians. The number of inhabitants, in ordinary times, amounts to about six thousand; it was now swelled to about ten thousand.

‘As I have said before, this place is the *depôt* for all the articles of trade between the Indians and the inhabitants of the province ; and in the principal street, which is about a mile in length, there are more marks of business and industry, than I have seen elsewhere in this country. Through the centre of the city runs a clear and beautiful stream of water, fresh from the Andes, which, diverted into different channels, contributes much to the health and cleanliness of the city. The outskirts of the town are extremely beautiful. The houses are neat, generally somewhat distant from the road, and are so completely enshrouded in groves of fruit trees, that when passing among them, you can hardly persuade yourself that you are in a city. From *los Angeles* and the vicinity, is a noble view of the chain of the Andes, whose snowy peaks rise far above the clouds, that seem to be resting upon their sides. On approaching *los Angeles*, I thought we had arrived nearly at their feet ; they seemed, indeed, to be almost impending over us ; and I was astonished to learn that we were at least ten leagues from them.’

The following description of the Indian allies of the Royal cause, presents an interesting picture of a renowned people, now, it would seem, degenerated ; certainly but little known at the present day.

‘The impressions which I received with regard to the Indians, from the deputations which arrived to the Royalists, at Talcahuano, while I was there, were not materially changed by a nearer view of them. During my stay in *los Angeles*, a part of ten or fifteen tribes came in, to offer their services to the commander in chief. On these occasions, they were formally received by a general officer, were formed in the square, and honored with a salute of cannon and musquetry. At the time of the salute, a few of the boldest among them would generally gallop toward the cannon, flourish their lances at the time of the discharge, and seem to bid defiance to its power. Such instances of heroism were always received by their companions with a loud and piercing yell of applause. Of course nothing like regular discipline or subordination could be expected among them ; and to keep them within any moderate bounds of order was no easy task. The earnestness, with which their aid was accepted, was enough to prove to them how important they were considered to the success of the Royal cause. It is true the present commander in chief, Don Francisco Sanchez, has long maintained a most extraordinary influence over them. I very much doubt, however, whether his name and presence were now so effectual in keeping them together, and maintaining their enthusiasm in the cause, as the immense quantities of wine and provi-

sions that were required to be contributed from every part of the province for their support. Their encampment, a little more than a league from the city, exhibited one of the most disgusting scenes I ever witnessed. At noon you would find them sitting in groups round their fires, devouring their half roasted horse flesh with the voracity of tigers. Then followed their wine, of which they generally took enough to prostrate them senseless upon the ground. To every different tribe there were attached two or three citizens of *los Angeles*, who by long traffic with them had acquired their language, and who served as commissaries and interpreters, in their communications with the government.

Our author remained at *los Angeles* till the month of January, 1819, at which time he received a military passport, to enable him to repair to San Pedro, a post on the southern bank of the Biobio, opposite to Concepcion. At this place he remained three weeks. At the end of this period, the Patriot army arrived at Concepcion, and took possession of that city. Having menaced an attack upon San Pedro, its residents not bearing arms, were ordered by the Royalist commander to quit it. These circumstances made another removal to the mountains necessary. We regret that we have no room for the adventures of our author, and the family in which he was residing on this occasion. After four or five days, new orders, addressed to all on the south side of the Biobio, were issued, commanding them to retire to the city of Arauco, under pain of the king's displeasure. Unwilling to encounter the flight through the savage country to this distant spot, our author, with some friends of Concepcion, determined to conceal themselves in the mountains, and await the course of events. The Patriots soon took possession of San Pedro, and thus remained masters of the whole province of Concepcion. This circumstance enabled our author and his friends to repair in safety to that place; and with this, the little volume of his adventures is brought to a close.

A sketch of the revolutionary history of Chili is prefixed, by way of introduction, to the volume, and a good deal of instructive detail as to the events of the contest, at the important period when our author was in the country, is interwoven. This is too important a subject to be incidentally treated, and we have accordingly forborne to enter upon it. The extracts we have made will give our readers a favorable opinion of the little work from which they are taken. Its author

has possessed advantages, which fall to the lot of few, of making himself acquainted with a region rapidly growing in political and commercial importance. Possessing, as he does, every requisite for producing a much more ample work, from the materials that have come within his reach, we sincerely hope that he will present the public with a full narrative of the revolution, and with such information, in regard to the country, as he is so well qualified to impart.

Of the Reports made five years ago to the Secretary of State concerning Chili, by Judge Bland, and Mr Poinsett, we have thought it unnecessary to speak, as they are already familiar to many of our readers, and accessible to all. At a future period, however, we shall have occasion to refer to these valuable documents in a view, which we propose to take, of the revolutionary history and political condition of Chili.

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**ART. XVIII.**—*The Pilot, a Tale of the Sea.* By the Author of the *Pioneers*, &c. New York. Charles Wiley. 1823. 2 vols.

OUR literature, to use a trite comparison, is like our territory, the greater part as yet uncultivated and wild. The yeoman who goes into our forests, and opens a little prospect of habitations, and fields of grain and of grass, in the midst of the wilderness, may be regarded as a sort of peaceful conqueror; a champion, who subdues the land and makes it pay tribute. So the author of any literary work, upon a subject peculiar to ourselves, and truly American, undertakes a like enterprise; he peoples the regions of fancy and memory; he reclaims and makes fertile the intellectual waste; he opens the solitude to the light; and, under his hands, it begins to teem with life and action, and to present a thousand pleasing objects. Now, in the case of the woodsman, if he supplants the forest trees with fields of wheat and corn, the main purpose is effected, and we acknowledge, that he has done a creditable thing, and deserves well, without considering too critically, whether in his sowing and planting he has followed the *broad-*